

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A moisture activated implant device for placement into a void space within a bone, adhesion to bone tissue, and promoting bone growth in the void space, comprising:

a ~~dry and initially non-adhesive~~ covering comprised of a water absorbing gelatinizable material that defines an enclosed space and which becomes sticky and gelatinous upon contact with water so as to render it adhesive to bone tissue ~~upon contact with water~~, wherein the ~~water absorbing gelatinizable material~~ dry covering consists essentially of ~~at least one of gelatinizable gauze, oxidized cellulose, oxidized regenerated cellulose, or gelatinizable cat gut~~; and

a bone growth promoting material, disposed within the enclosed space defined by the dry covering, selected from the group consisting of hydroxyapatite, beta-tricalcium phosphate, purified coral shell, freeze dried natural bone powder, freeze dried natural bone particles, demineralized natural bone powder, demineralized natural bone particles, demineralized natural bone shards, demineralized natural bone fragments, and combinations thereof,

wherein the ~~dry and initially non-adhesive~~ covering ~~forms a continuous outer cover of the implant device so as to completely~~ encapsulates and retains the bone growth promoting material within the enclosed space prior to use.

2. (Currently Amended) An implant device as recited in claim 1, wherein the ~~water absorbing gelatinizable material of the covering is~~ implant device consists essentially of oxidized cellulose and the bone growth promoting material.

3. (Previously Presented) An implant device as recited in claim 1, wherein the water absorbing gelatinizable material is resorbable.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) An implant device as recited in claim 1, wherein the implant device has an elongate sausage-like configuration.

7. (Currently Amended) An implant device as recited in claim 1, wherein the implant device has a non-elongate, pillow like configuration.

8. (Previously Presented) An implant device as recited in claim 1, further comprising moisture-resistant packaging within which the implant device is stored prior to use.

9. (Previously Presented) An implant device as recited in claim 1, wherein the implant device further comprises an adhesive dispersed with the bone growth promoting material for adhering the bone growth material together.

10. (Previously Presented) An implant device as recited in claim 9, wherein the adhesive comprises at least one of fibrin powder or chopped adhesive gauze.

11. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing the implant device for promoting bone growth according to claim 1, comprising:

forming a water absorbing gelatinizable material into a hollow tube or pouch;
inserting a bone growth promoting material into at least a portion of the tube or pouch;
closing one or more initially open ends of the tube or pouch to form the implant device for promoting bone growth.

12. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing as recited in claim 11, wherein the act of closing one or more ends of the tube or pouch comprises wet sealing and then drying the ends.

13. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing as recited in claim 11, wherein the tube or pouch is divided into a plurality of individual sections that are separated and individually sealed so as to form a plurality of implant devices from a single tube or pouch filled with the bone growth promoting material.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of promoting bone growth, comprising:
providing the implant device recited in claim 1, the covering of the implant device being dry and initially non-adhesive; and
placing the implant device adjacent to bone tissue to be augmented; and [[,]]
the covering of the implant device becoming ~~adhesive to the bone tissue~~
gelatinous upon contact with water in order to maintain the bone growth material adjacent to the bone tissue.

15. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 14, wherein the implant device is placed into a void or defect resulting from the removal of a tooth.

16-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) A moisture activated implant device for placement into a void space within a bone, adhesion to bone tissue, and promoting bone growth in the void space, comprising:

a dry ~~and initially non-adhesive~~ covering comprised of a water absorbing gelatinizable material that defines an enclosed space and which becomes sticky and gelatinous upon contact with water so as to render it adhesive to bone tissue ~~upon contact with water~~, wherein the dry covering ~~water absorbing gelatinizable material~~ consists essentially of ~~at least one member selected from the group consisting of gelatinizable gauze, oxidized cellulose, oxidized regenerated cellulose, and gelatinizable catgut;~~

a bone growth promoting material in granule or powder form disposed within the enclosed space defined by the dry covering; and

a thickener dispersed among the bone growth promoting material, the thickener comprising a material that forms a viscous gel or firm putty upon contact with water,

wherein the dry ~~and initially non-adhesive~~ covering ~~forms a continuous outer cover of the implant device so as to completely encapsulates~~ and retains the bone growth promoting material within the enclosed space prior to use.

29. (Currently Amended) An implant device as recited in claim 28, wherein the ~~water absorbing gelatinizable material of the covering~~ implant device consists essentially of oxidized cellulose, the bone growth promoting material, and the thickener.

30. (Previously Presented) An implant device as recited in claim 28, wherein the thickener comprises at least one of gelatinizable gauze, oxidized cellulose, oxidized regenerated cellulose, ground catgut, or powdered catgut.

31. (Previously Presented) An implant device as recited in claim 28, wherein the thickener comprises a biocompatible gelatinous collagen material.

32. (Previously Presented) An implant device as recited in claim 28, wherein the bone growth promoting material comprises hydroxyapatite, beta-tricalcium phosphate, purified coral shell, natural bone, demineralized natural bone, or a combination thereof.

33. (Previously Presented) An implant device as in recited in claim 28, wherein the cover is woven, knitted, or braided.